



Book Review

Handbook Spinal Cord Lesion Rehabilitation

Edited by FWA Van Asbeck

Publishers: Bohn Stafleu Van Loghum Houten/Diegem. 1998. 424pp.

ISBN: 90 313 26194 £63.00 Guilders: 198.00

This interesting book delineates the experience and expertise existing in The Netherlands and in Flanders in the field of spinal cord rehabilitation. The book opens with a short-presentation of history and methodology and epidemiology of the subject. The first part of the book deals with the various causes, both traumatic and non-traumatic, of spinal cord lesions. The symptomatology and the diagnosis of the various causes are described and discussed. In the second part of the book subjects dealt with include neuropathic bladder, bowel problems, sexuality, decubitus ulcers, spasticity, pain, circulatory and respiratory disturbances. This is followed by sections dealing with the limitations and problems of paralysis, as seen from the physical, psychological and social view points and includes not only rehabilitation but guidelines for the patients. The final part of the book deals with ways of measuring handicap, principles for acute treatment and for ongoing care.

The book is easy to read, it is well thought out and contains all the information one would like to find in a book of this kind. There is a good reference list.

The editor and all the contributors have done an excellent job in putting this book together; the first book on comprehensive management of spinal cord injury in the Dutch language.

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Dorlands Illustrated Medical Dictionary 28th Edition

Published by: Harcourt Brace: 1974 pp.

ISBN: 0 72 162 8591 £32.00

How does one review a dictionary? Dorlands has been in existence for nearly a century and this is the 28th edition. Obsolete terms have been discarded and new terms have been added and the whole dictionary has been revised. The format has become easier to use with the break-up of long paragraphs with sub-entries and a change in typeface. This has all increased the readability of the dictionary. The main entries now use a system of syllable breaks which is rather irritating for some readers although it is supposed to ease the pronunciation of more difficult words.

Most of the text figures have been re-drawn and they certainly have a much cleaner and more modern appearance than in the old editions.

It is an excellent dictionary and clearly serves the needs of student, medical practitioners of all kinds and people engaged in research.

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